

# American Profile



CELEBRATING BOOMERS

## REIN CRUIISERS

A generation rediscovers its youth and freedom on the road

### INSIDE:

- Becker Surf shapes legendary boards
- Energy-saving tips for the home
- Shrimp on a stick & grilled kielbasa kebabs

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American Profile

## Ask American Profile

**Q** What can you tell me about the host of the show *Backstage & Backroads*? He's not only an outdoorsman, but also a great singer! Daniel Lee Martin. Why haven't we heard about him before?

—Gina Wilson, Concord, N.C.

Florida native Daniel Lee Martin gave up a career in marketing—he owned his own advertising agency—to pursue his dream of becoming a country singer. Now the host of *Backstage & Backroads with Daniel Lee Martin* on The Sportsman Channel, he invites his celebrity friends along for a unique combination of huntin', fishin' and singin'. Martin promoted the release of his debut album in 2004 with some 300 appearances at Wal-Mart stores across the nation, and his latest CD, *On My Way to You*, has just been released.



British twins Lisa and Louise Burns haunted the hotel in *The Shining*.

time was brief, and they only had one haunting line ("Come play with us, Danny . . . forever and ever and ever.") But their scene has an enduring creepiness that has lasted for nearly three decades. They never made another movie and grew up outside the spotlight in their hometown of London, where Lisa earned a college degree in literature and Louise works as a microbiologist.

**Q** Whatever became of the twin girls in the movie *The Shining*?

—Terry Olney, Lincoln, Neb.

Lisa and Louise Burns were 12 when they appeared in the 1980 movie adaptation of Stephen King's best-selling novel about a haunted hotel. Cast as a pair of identically dressed British tykes—who happened to be dead—their onscreen time was brief, and they only had one haunting line ("Come play with us, Danny . . . forever and ever and ever.") But their scene has an enduring creepiness that has lasted for nearly three decades. They never made another movie and grew up outside the spotlight in their hometown of London, where Lisa earned a college degree in literature and Louise works as a microbiologist.

**Q** Where was *Little House on the Prairie* filmed?

—Elaine Barton, Peach Bottom, Pa.

The beloved 1974-1983 TV series was set in frontier Minnesota, but was shot entirely in California, primarily in the Simi Valley. The production used various "rugged" locations also seen as backdrops in dozens of other TV shows and movies, including *Bonanza*, *Rawhide*, *Death Valley Days*, *Bat Masterson*, *Guns, Smoke, Back to the Future*, *Batman*, *Dallas* and *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

**Q** Why did Richard Dean Anderson leave *Stargate SG-1*?

—Karli Walker, Taft, Calif.

The popular Sci-Fi network series was filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Los Angeles resident Anderson, 57, didn't like working so far from home. He left the show to spend more time with his 8-year-old daughter, Wylie Quinn Annarose. Anderson returned for a couple of guest appearances for the final season, the second half of which began airing in April.



Richard Dean Anderson (left) on *Stargate SG-1*

**Q** I really liked Star Jones on *The View*. What is she doing now?

—Alice Stark, Pellston, Mich.

A slimmed-down Star Jones Reynolds, 45, is sporting a new hairdo, wearing glasses and preparing to return to television in August with her own talk show on Court TV. A former lawyer herself, she began her career on the network in 1991 as a legal commentator. Her duties on *The View* ended in a blowup; told her contract wasn't being renewed, she beat host Barbara Walters to the punch in making the announcement and was—as they say in show business—promptly shown the door.

\* Cover photo by John Curry

Star Jones has slimmed down and branched out

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If you've captured a winning image of America, as you perceive it, with your camera, mail it along with your name, address, telephone number and a brief description of the photo to: My America Photo Contest, 341 Cool Springs Blvd., 4th Floor, Franklin, TN 37067.

Accepted formats via regular mail include 5-by-7-inch color prints, 35mm color slides and digital images of at least 300 dpi accompanied by a photo quality print, or enter and upload your image online at [www.americanprofile.com](http://www.americanprofile.com). Submissions must be postmarked by July 15, 2007, and will not be returned. Photographs shall become the property of American Profile.

# Home

by KATIE AND  
GENE HAMILTON

## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Keeping your home cool and comfortable in the summer can be expensive, considering the escalating price of energy. Here are some suggestions to help keep your cooling budget from overheating.

- Don't place a heat-generating lamp or television near the thermostat for a central air system; it makes the unit run longer. Also, keep lights turned off unless they're needed.
- Operate heat-generating appliances such as the dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer in the early morning or late evening when the weather is typically cooler. Also, consider washing your laundry in cold water instead of hot.
- Make sure doors and windows are tightly closed, and block out daytime sun with window shades or draperies. On the other hand, open windows on cool days and evenings.
- Stop air leaks by caulking and weatherstripping all seams, cracks and openings to the outside of your home. This can save 10 percent or more on your energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy and The Alliance to Save Energy.
- Reduce the load on your cooling appliances by setting the thermostat of a central air system higher. If you use window air conditioning units, turn them off if you leave your house for several hours.
- Because moving air feels cooler than still air, use a ceiling fan to provide better circulation. You can then raise the temperature on your thermostat a few degrees without feeling any warmer.
- Clean or replace air filters on your central air conditioning system or window unit at least once a month. Dirty air filters have to work much harder to move the air.
- Plant a tree or shrubbery to provide shade for your house. You can expect a return on the investment in less than eight years, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Window awnings significantly reduce heat exposure in the summer, too.★

Katie and Gene Hamilton are home improvement writers based in St. Michaels, Md.



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## CELEBRATING BOOMERS

**A generation  
rediscovers its  
youth and freedom  
on the road**

# CRUISERS

**Roaring through the Ozark** Mountains on their Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Leila and John Scott feel the years unwind with each bend in the blacktop. "The freedom, the wind, makes you feel young again," says John, 60, a machinist in Galena, Kan. (pop. 3,287).

As a kid, John raced dirt bikes—knobby tires, no lights, no tags—then bought a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle when he was 18. John hadn't owned a motorcycle, though, since 1978 when the distinctive rumble beckoned to him one night in 1999.

"We were in Illinois at a campground and a bunch of Harleys rode by and I thought, 'Boy, I'd like to get back to biking.'" The grandfather of eight imagined his hands twisting the throttle as he enjoyed the thrill of the open road. He and Leila, 59, were empty nesters with four grown children. Before they knew it, they'd bought a Suzuki 1400 Intruder motorcycle and the only ties binding them were the do-rags to keep their hair from tangling as they headed down the highway.

"I rode with him and was hooked right away," says Leila, who works as a technician in a cardiologist's office. "You can have a bad day and get on your bike and it all goes away."



Leila and John Scott of Galena, Kan., feel "young again."

The Scotts average about 10,000 miles a year on their motorcycles. And while their at-home family has fled the nest, they've acquired another family of sorts after buying Harleys in 2001. "They're just like brothers and sisters," Leila says about members of her Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) from Cycle Connection, a motorcycle dealership in nearby Joplin, Mo. (pop. 45,504).

Nearly every weekend, the Scotts don black leather jackets, chaps and boots and ride with fellow members. The average age of the group's 160 members is 52 and most have grown children.

"We don't worry about the kids," Leila says. "They worry about us."

Members ride to sightseeing spots, events and lots of eateries. "We eat to ride and ride to eat," Leila says with a laugh. It's nothing to ride 100 miles for a slice of homemade coconut-cream pie at Cookie's Cafe in Golden City, Mo. (pop. 884). The group takes three or four overnight trips a year and holds several fund-raising events, the major one being the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon broadcast locally from Cycle Connection.

Each summer, the Scotts head west on their bikes for a week's vacation. "You can tour Yellowstone on a bike or in a cage (translation: car) and it's two entirely different experiences," John says.

Adds Leila, "You see every bump in the road on a motorcycle. The whole view is yours."

### BOOMERS VROOMERS

The Scotts and other baby boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) have fueled the growth of the motorcycle industry for 15 years. No longer burdened with bills for braces and college tuition, many boomers have the disposable income for motorcycles, insurance and gear.

The average age of a motorcycle owner in the United States is 52.

(Continued on page 8)



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"RIDING MAKES  
ME FEEL ABOUT  
20 YEARS OLD."

—JANET ADAMS



Mike and Janet Adams of Greenville, S.C., have embraced the benefits of biking.

States is 41, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council in Irvine, Calif.

Although there is a lingering image of bikers as rebels, such as Marlon Brando in *The Wild One*, today's bikers are far from a symbol of anti-establishment. They *are* the establishment.

"Americans have finally found that it's a great activity, both for weekend recreation and weekday transportation," says Ty van Hooydonk, a spokesman for the Motorcycle Industry Council.

About 450 models of motorcycles are available, with an average price of \$8,000. Customizing and accessorizing—chrome-plated parts, heated handlebar grips and GPS navigation systems—drive the price as high as riders want to go.

#### SHARING THE SPIRIT AND RIDE

Mike Adams, 49, of Greenville, S.C. (pop. 56,002), has enjoyed riding on two wheels since he drove his first dirt bike at age 5. He was thrilled to introduce his wife of five years, Janet, 48, to the sport.

"When we were riding double, I'd look in my mirror and it was nothing but teeth," says Mike, a construction supervisor. "She smiled the whole time."

He still admires Janet's smile, but today it's from several yards away as she rides her own cherished pearl-white 2007 Harley-Davidson Dyna Low Rider. Janet's enthusiasm for riding now rivals her husband's. She rides to work at their family-owned moving and storage business in Greenville and dresses daily in biker-themed shirts and jewelry.

"Riding makes me feel about 20 years old," Janet says. Before going solo, Janet took a two-day riding class to



Rose and Tom Manzi relax on their Harleys in Smyrna, Del.

boost her skills and confidence. "A husband can't teach a wife to ride," she says flatly. "No patience."

Although her two adult children think it's cool that their mother rides a motorcycle, Janet didn't have the nerve to tell her own mother for three months about her liberating new sport.

"Now Mom says, 'Before you ride, just call me and I'll pray for you.'"

Every night, the Adamses try to ride as a couple or with other members of the Greenville H.O.G. chapter. On Sundays, they hit the road for sightseeing, such as a 130-mile trip to Abbeville, S.C. (pop. 5,840).

"It's total relaxation," Mike says.

"It's our second childhood," adds Janet.

#### NEXT TO NATURE

A big attraction to riding for Rose and Tom Manzi of Smyrna, Del. (pop. 5,679), is being outdoors.

By 5 a.m. during the workweek, Rose has pulled an orange safety vest over her leather jacket and packed her suit, silk blouse, pantyhose and heels in her saddlebag for the 50-mile commute to her banking job in Wilmington. As she cruises on a motorcycle, adorned with purple butterflies, and inhales the salty ocean air, she feels invigorated.

"Seeing the countryside close-up and meeting people are truly the reasons we ride," says Rose, 50.

The Manzis travel mostly with members of their Harley group from Mike's Famous motorcycle dealership in Smyrna. Their trips always involve shopping, but hauling home the goods isn't a problem. "We ship our dirty clothes home by UPS," says Tom, 48, a plumber. The same goes for hefty souvenirs, such as the 50-pound chain-saw-carved bear that Rose bought in Wildwood, N.J. (pop. 5,436).

Typical of most motorcycle groups, the Smyrna pack participates in many charitable benefits and runs. For six years, Rose has collected canned goods weekly from bikers for the Kent County food bank. They helped raise \$1,000 for the Boys and Girls Club and sent air conditioners and Christmas trees to U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

The Manzis don't plan to put the brakes on their biking—ever. Even knee-replacement surgery last year didn't keep Rose out of the saddle for long.

"Our kids are grown and now it's time for us to have some fun," she says. "That's how all of us feel." ☆

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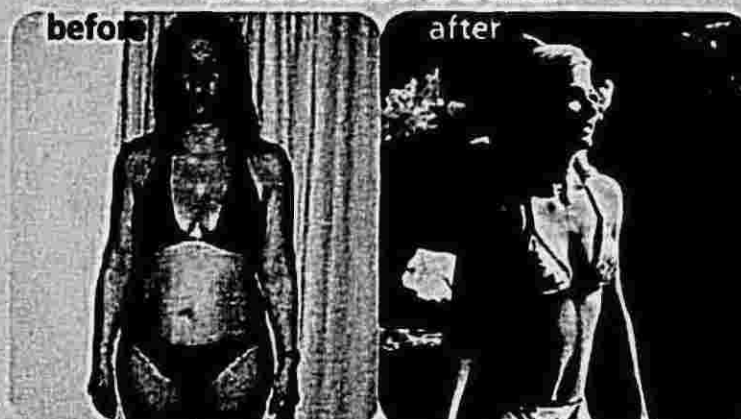
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# Shaping Legendary Surfboards

by ELISABETH DEFFNER

Ankle deep in foam planed from the surface of a 7-foot plank at the Becker Surf factory in Hermosa Beach, Calif. (pop. 18,566), Jose Barahona, 41, pulls a dust mask from his face and runs his hand along the curves of a board being shaped to ride the ocean waves.

Sculpting a surfboard's contours is almost instinctual for Barahona, who has hand-shaped some 40,000 boards since he began working at the factory 27 years ago. "As you go, everything falls into place," he says, describing the shaping process that he has refined into a 10-minute job.

Few manufacturers hand-shape surfboards anymore, but the craftsmen at Becker Surf always have. "We're kind of purists," says CEO Dave Hollander, 51, who started the company with two fellow surfers.

One of the nation's oldest



Dave Hollander and Steve Mangiagli founded the Hermosa Beach, Calif., company in 1980.

Photos by John Hayes



## CELEBRATING BOOMERS

Surfers have ridden the ocean waves on Becker boards for three decades.

surfboard manufacturers, Becker Surf got its start in 1980 when Hollander, Steve Mangiagli and Phil Becker each invested \$8,000, formed a partnership and expanded Rick Surfboards, a Hermosa Beach business that Becker and Mangiagli had bought in 1975.

Working as a team, Becker shaped the boards, Mangiagli coated them with waterproof fiberglass and Hollander painted them with spectacular designs.

Today, the Becker Surf factory employs 10 craftsmen who produce about 4,000 surfboards each year. The weeklong manufacturing process begins with Barahona—the company's master shaper since Becker, 67, retired two years ago—who cuts foam planks with a jigsaw and then contours the boards with an electric planer and other hand tools. After shaping, the boards are painted, covered with fiberglass and sanded satin smooth before they

(Continued on page 14)

Becker Surf produces  
4,000 boards annually

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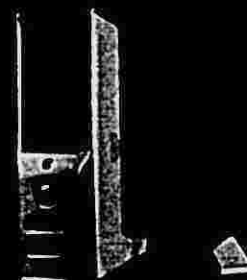
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